



## 95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2007 and 2008

HB4916

by Rep. Brent Hassert - Tom Cross - JoAnn D. Osmond

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

See Index

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that if, in order to qualify for a property-tax exemption, the taxpayer must have an income that is at or below a certain amount, then, for the purposes of that exemption, the term "income" does not include any Social Security benefit unless expressly stated otherwise. Increases the maximum reduction under the Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption from \$4,000 to \$5,500 for taxable year 2008 and indexes the reduction to the Consumer Price Index. Includes disabled persons within the provisions granting an assessment freeze homestead exemption to senior citizens and changes the title of the exemption to the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption. Decreases the age limit to qualify for the exemption from 65 years of age to 55 years of age. Increases the maximum income limitation under the exemption. Requires the county clerk to abate the taxes levied by a school district on each parcel of qualified homestead property that is owned by a taxpayer who is 65 years of age or older and who had an annual household income of \$35,000 or less for the previous taxable year. Amends the School Code. Subject to appropriation, requires the State Board of Education to reimburse each school district for any revenue lost due to the property tax abatement. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately.

LRB095 18442 BDD 45381 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

HOUSING  
AFFORDABILITY  
IMPACT NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

1 AN ACT concerning revenue.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Property Tax Code is amended by changing  
5 Sections 14-20, 15-170, and 15-172 and by adding Sections 15-7  
6 and 18-179 as follows:

7 (35 ILCS 200/14-20)

8 Sec. 14-20. Certificate of error; counties of less than  
9 3,000,000. In any county with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants,  
10 if, at any time before judgment or order of sale is entered in  
11 any proceeding to collect or to enjoin the collection of taxes  
12 based upon any assessment of any property, the chief county  
13 assessment officer discovers an error or mistake in the  
14 assessment (other than errors of judgment as to the valuation  
15 of the property), he or she shall issue to the person  
16 erroneously assessed a certificate setting forth the nature of  
17 the error and the cause or causes of the error. In any county  
18 with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants, if an owner fails to file  
19 an application for the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons  
20 Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption provided in Section  
21 15-172 during the previous assessment year and qualifies for  
22 the exemption, the Chief County Assessment Officer pursuant to  
23 this Section, or the Board of Review pursuant to Section 16-75,

1 shall issue a certificate of error setting forth the correct  
2 taxable valuation of the property. The certificate, when  
3 properly endorsed by the majority of the board of review,  
4 showing their concurrence, and not otherwise, may be used in  
5 evidence in any court of competent jurisdiction, and when so  
6 introduced in evidence, shall become a part of the court record  
7 and shall not be removed from the files except on an order of  
8 the court.

9 (Source: P.A. 90-552, eff. 12-12-97; 91-377, eff. 7-30-99.)

10 (35 ILCS 200/15-7 new)

11 Sec. 15-7. Income limits; Social Security. Beginning with  
12 the 2008 assessment year, if, in order to qualify for an  
13 exemption under this Article 15, the taxpayer must have an  
14 income that is at or below a certain amount, then, for the  
15 purposes of that exemption, the term "income" does not include  
16 any Social Security benefit unless expressly stated otherwise.

17 (35 ILCS 200/15-170)

18 Sec. 15-170. Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption. An  
19 annual homestead exemption limited, except as described here  
20 with relation to cooperatives or life care facilities, to a  
21 maximum reduction set forth below from the property's value, as  
22 equalized or assessed by the Department, is granted for  
23 property that is occupied as a residence by a person 65 years  
24 of age or older who is liable for paying real estate taxes on

1 the property and is an owner of record of the property or has a  
2 legal or equitable interest therein as evidenced by a written  
3 instrument, except for a leasehold interest, other than a  
4 leasehold interest of land on which a single family residence  
5 is located, which is occupied as a residence by a person 65  
6 years or older who has an ownership interest therein, legal,  
7 equitable or as a lessee, and on which he or she is liable for  
8 the payment of property taxes. The maximum amount of the  
9 reduction under this Section is as follows:

10 (1) Before taxable year 2004, the maximum reduction  
11 shall be \$2,500 in counties with 3,000,000 or more  
12 inhabitants and \$2,000 in all other counties.

13 (2) For taxable years 2004 through 2005, the maximum  
14 reduction shall be \$3,000 in all counties.

15 (3) For taxable years 2006 and 2007, the maximum  
16 reduction shall be \$3,500. ~~and, for~~

17 (4) For taxable year ~~years~~ 2008 ~~and thereafter~~, the  
18 maximum reduction is \$5,500 ~~\$4,000~~ in all counties.

19 (5) For taxable years 2009 and thereafter, the maximum  
20 reduction is the maximum reduction for the prior taxable  
21 year increased by the annual rate of increase, for the  
22 previous calendar year, of the Consumer Price Index for All  
23 Urban Consumers for all items, published by the United  
24 States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

25 For land improved with an apartment building owned and  
26 operated as a cooperative, the maximum reduction from the value

1 of the property, as equalized by the Department, shall be  
2 multiplied by the number of apartments or units occupied by a  
3 person 65 years of age or older who is liable, by contract with  
4 the owner or owners of record, for paying property taxes on the  
5 property and is an owner of record of a legal or equitable  
6 interest in the cooperative apartment building, other than a  
7 leasehold interest. For land improved with a life care  
8 facility, the maximum reduction from the value of the property,  
9 as equalized by the Department, shall be multiplied by the  
10 number of apartments or units occupied by persons 65 years of  
11 age or older, irrespective of any legal, equitable, or  
12 leasehold interest in the facility, who are liable, under a  
13 contract with the owner or owners of record of the facility,  
14 for paying property taxes on the property. In a cooperative or  
15 a life care facility where a homestead exemption has been  
16 granted, the cooperative association or the management firm of  
17 the cooperative or facility shall credit the savings resulting  
18 from that exemption only to the apportioned tax liability of  
19 the owner or resident who qualified for the exemption. Any  
20 person who willfully refuses to so credit the savings shall be  
21 guilty of a Class B misdemeanor. Under this Section and  
22 Sections 15-175, 15-176, and 15-177, "life care facility" means  
23 a facility, as defined in Section 2 of the Life Care Facilities  
24 Act, with which the applicant for the homestead exemption has a  
25 life care contract as defined in that Act.

26 When a homestead exemption has been granted under this

1 Section and the person qualifying subsequently becomes a  
2 resident of a facility licensed under the Nursing Home Care  
3 Act, the exemption shall continue so long as the residence  
4 continues to be occupied by the qualifying person's spouse if  
5 the spouse is 65 years of age or older, or if the residence  
6 remains unoccupied but is still owned by the person qualified  
7 for the homestead exemption.

8 A person who will be 65 years of age during the current  
9 assessment year shall be eligible to apply for the homestead  
10 exemption during that assessment year. Application shall be  
11 made during the application period in effect for the county of  
12 his residence.

13 Beginning with assessment year 2003, for taxes payable in  
14 2004, property that is first occupied as a residence after  
15 January 1 of any assessment year by a person who is eligible  
16 for the senior citizens homestead exemption under this Section  
17 must be granted a pro-rata exemption for the assessment year.  
18 The amount of the pro-rata exemption is the exemption allowed  
19 in the county under this Section divided by 365 and multiplied  
20 by the number of days during the assessment year the property  
21 is occupied as a residence by a person eligible for the  
22 exemption under this Section. The chief county assessment  
23 officer must adopt reasonable procedures to establish  
24 eligibility for this pro-rata exemption.

25 The assessor or chief county assessment officer may  
26 determine the eligibility of a life care facility to receive

1 the benefits provided by this Section, by affidavit,  
2 application, visual inspection, questionnaire or other  
3 reasonable methods in order to insure that the tax savings  
4 resulting from the exemption are credited by the management  
5 firm to the apportioned tax liability of each qualifying  
6 resident. The assessor may request reasonable proof that the  
7 management firm has so credited the exemption.

8 The chief county assessment officer of each county with  
9 less than 3,000,000 inhabitants shall provide to each person  
10 allowed a homestead exemption under this Section a form to  
11 designate any other person to receive a duplicate of any notice  
12 of delinquency in the payment of taxes assessed and levied  
13 under this Code on the property of the person receiving the  
14 exemption. The duplicate notice shall be in addition to the  
15 notice required to be provided to the person receiving the  
16 exemption, and shall be given in the manner required by this  
17 Code. The person filing the request for the duplicate notice  
18 shall pay a fee of \$5 to cover administrative costs to the  
19 supervisor of assessments, who shall then file the executed  
20 designation with the county collector. Notwithstanding any  
21 other provision of this Code to the contrary, the filing of  
22 such an executed designation requires the county collector to  
23 provide duplicate notices as indicated by the designation. A  
24 designation may be rescinded by the person who executed such  
25 designation at any time, in the manner and form required by the  
26 chief county assessment officer.

1           The assessor or chief county assessment officer may  
2 determine the eligibility of residential property to receive  
3 the homestead exemption provided by this Section by  
4 application, visual inspection, questionnaire or other  
5 reasonable methods. The determination shall be made in  
6 accordance with guidelines established by the Department.

7           In counties with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants, the  
8 county board may by resolution provide that if a person has  
9 been granted a homestead exemption under this Section, the  
10 person qualifying need not reapply for the exemption.

11           In counties with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants, if the  
12 assessor or chief county assessment officer requires annual  
13 application for verification of eligibility for an exemption  
14 once granted under this Section, the application shall be  
15 mailed to the taxpayer.

16           The assessor or chief county assessment officer shall  
17 notify each person who qualifies for an exemption under this  
18 Section that the person may also qualify for deferral of real  
19 estate taxes under the Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral  
20 Act. The notice shall set forth the qualifications needed for  
21 deferral of real estate taxes, the address and telephone number  
22 of county collector, and a statement that applications for  
23 deferral of real estate taxes may be obtained from the county  
24 collector.

25           Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8 of the State Mandates Act,  
26 no reimbursement by the State is required for the



1 implementation of any mandate created by this Section.  
2 (Source: P.A. 94-794, eff. 5-22-06; 95-644, eff. 10-12-07;  
3 revised 11-2-07.)

4 (35 ILCS 200/15-172)

5 Sec. 15-172. Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons  
6 Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption.

7 (a) This Section may be cited as the Senior Citizens and  
8 Disabled Persons Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption.

9 (b) As used in this Section:

10 "Applicant" means an individual who has filed an  
11 application under this Section.

12 "Base amount" means the base year equalized assessed value  
13 of the residence plus the first year's equalized assessed value  
14 of any added improvements which increased the assessed value of  
15 the residence after the base year.

16 "Base year" means the taxable year prior to the taxable  
17 year for which the applicant first qualifies and applies for  
18 the exemption provided that in the prior taxable year the  
19 property was improved with a permanent structure that was  
20 occupied as a residence by the applicant who was liable for  
21 paying real property taxes on the property and who was either  
22 (i) an owner of record of the property or had legal or  
23 equitable interest in the property as evidenced by a written  
24 instrument or (ii) had a legal or equitable interest as a  
25 lessee in the parcel of property that was single family

1 residence. If in any subsequent taxable year for which the  
2 applicant applies and qualifies for the exemption the equalized  
3 assessed value of the residence is less than the equalized  
4 assessed value in the existing base year (provided that such  
5 equalized assessed value is not based on an assessed value that  
6 results from a temporary irregularity in the property that  
7 reduces the assessed value for one or more taxable years), then  
8 that subsequent taxable year shall become the base year until a  
9 new base year is established under the terms of this paragraph.  
10 For taxable year 1999 only, the Chief County Assessment Officer  
11 shall review (i) all taxable years for which the applicant  
12 applied and qualified for the exemption and (ii) the existing  
13 base year. The assessment officer shall select as the new base  
14 year the year with the lowest equalized assessed value. An  
15 equalized assessed value that is based on an assessed value  
16 that results from a temporary irregularity in the property that  
17 reduces the assessed value for one or more taxable years shall  
18 not be considered the lowest equalized assessed value. The  
19 selected year shall be the base year for taxable year 1999 and  
20 thereafter until a new base year is established under the terms  
21 of this paragraph.

22 "Chief County Assessment Officer" means the County  
23 Assessor or Supervisor of Assessments of the county in which  
24 the property is located.

25 "Disabled person" means a person unable to engage in any  
26 substantial gainful activity by reason of a medically

1 determinable physical or mental impairment that (i) can be  
2 expected to result in death or (ii) has lasted or can be  
3 expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12  
4 months. Disabled persons applying for the exemption under this  
5 Section must submit proof of the disability in the manner  
6 prescribed by the chief county assessment officer. Proof that  
7 an applicant is eligible to receive disability benefits under  
8 the federal Social Security Act constitutes proof of disability  
9 for purposes of this Section. Issuance of an Illinois Disabled  
10 Person Identification Card to the applicant stating that the  
11 possessor is under a Class 2 disability, as defined in Section  
12 4A of the Illinois Identification Card Act, constitutes proof  
13 that the person is a disabled person for purposes of this  
14 Section.

15 "Equalized assessed value" means the assessed value as  
16 equalized by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

17 "Household" means the applicant, the spouse of the  
18 applicant, and all persons using the residence of the applicant  
19 as their principal place of residence.

20 "Household income" means the combined income of the members  
21 of a household for the calendar year preceding the taxable  
22 year.

23 "Income" has the same meaning as provided in Section 3.07  
24 of the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief  
25 and Pharmaceutical Assistance Act, except that, beginning in  
26 assessment year 2001, "income" does not include veteran's

1 benefits.

2 "Internal Revenue Code of 1986" means the United States  
3 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or any successor law or laws  
4 relating to federal income taxes in effect for the year  
5 preceding the taxable year.

6 "Life care facility that qualifies as a cooperative" means  
7 a facility as defined in Section 2 of the Life Care Facilities  
8 Act.

9 "Maximum income limitation" means:

- 10 (1) \$35,000 prior to taxable year 1999;
- 11 (2) \$40,000 in taxable years 1999 through 2003;
- 12 (3) \$45,000 in taxable years 2004 through 2005;
- 13 (4) \$50,000 in taxable years 2006 and 2007; ~~and~~
- 14 (5) \$55,000 in taxable year 2008; ~~and thereafter~~
- 15 (6) \$55,000 for applicants who have occupied the  
16 residence for less than 5 years and \$75,000 for all other  
17 applicants in taxable year 2009; and
- 18 (7) in taxable year 2010 and thereafter:
- 19 (A) for applicants who have occupied the residence  
20 for 5 years, \$75,000; and
- 21 (B) for applicants who have occupied the residence  
22 for less than or more than 5 years, an amount equal to  
23 the maximum income limitation for the immediately  
24 prior taxable year increased by the lesser of (i) 2% or  
25 (ii) the percentage increase during the immediately  
26 prior taxable year in the Consumer Price Index for All

1           Urban Consumers for all items published by the United  
2           States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics.

3           "Residence" means the principal dwelling place and  
4 appurtenant structures used for residential purposes in this  
5 State occupied on January 1 of the taxable year by a household  
6 and so much of the surrounding land, constituting the parcel  
7 upon which the dwelling place is situated, as is used for  
8 residential purposes. If the Chief County Assessment Officer  
9 has established a specific legal description for a portion of  
10 property constituting the residence, then that portion of  
11 property shall be deemed the residence for the purposes of this  
12 Section.

13           "Taxable year" means the calendar year during which ad  
14 valorem property taxes payable in the next succeeding year are  
15 levied.

16           (c) Beginning in (1) taxable year 1994 ~~for,~~ a senior  
17 citizens and (2) taxable year 2008 for disabled persons, an  
18 assessment freeze homestead exemption is granted for real  
19 property that is improved with a permanent structure that is  
20 occupied as a residence by an applicant who (i) is 55 ~~65~~ years  
21 of age or older during the taxable year, (ii) has a household  
22 income that does not exceed the maximum income limitation,  
23 (iii) is liable for paying real property taxes on the property,  
24 and (iv) is an owner of record of the property or has a legal or  
25 equitable interest in the property as evidenced by a written  
26 instrument. This homestead exemption shall also apply to a

1 leasehold interest in a parcel of property improved with a  
2 permanent structure that is a single family residence that is  
3 occupied as a residence by a person who (i) is 55 ~~65~~ years of  
4 age or older or is a disabled person during the taxable year,  
5 (ii) has a household income that does not exceed the maximum  
6 income limitation, (iii) has a legal or equitable ownership  
7 interest in the property as lessee, and (iv) is liable for the  
8 payment of real property taxes on that property.

9 In counties of 3,000,000 or more inhabitants, the amount of  
10 the exemption for all taxable years is the equalized assessed  
11 value of the residence in the taxable year for which  
12 application is made minus the base amount. In all other  
13 counties, the amount of the exemption is as follows: (i)  
14 through taxable year 2005 and for taxable year 2007 and  
15 thereafter, the amount of this exemption shall be the equalized  
16 assessed value of the residence in the taxable year for which  
17 application is made minus the base amount; and (ii) for taxable  
18 year 2006, the amount of the exemption is as follows:

19 (1) For an applicant who has a household income of  
20 \$45,000 or less, the amount of the exemption is the  
21 equalized assessed value of the residence in the taxable  
22 year for which application is made minus the base amount.

23 (2) For an applicant who has a household income  
24 exceeding \$45,000 but not exceeding \$46,250, the amount of  
25 the exemption is (i) the equalized assessed value of the  
26 residence in the taxable year for which application is made

1 minus the base amount (ii) multiplied by 0.8.

2 (3) For an applicant who has a household income  
3 exceeding \$46,250 but not exceeding \$47,500, the amount of  
4 the exemption is (i) the equalized assessed value of the  
5 residence in the taxable year for which application is made  
6 minus the base amount (ii) multiplied by 0.6.

7 (4) For an applicant who has a household income  
8 exceeding \$47,500 but not exceeding \$48,750, the amount of  
9 the exemption is (i) the equalized assessed value of the  
10 residence in the taxable year for which application is made  
11 minus the base amount (ii) multiplied by 0.4.

12 (5) For an applicant who has a household income  
13 exceeding \$48,750 but not exceeding \$50,000, the amount of  
14 the exemption is (i) the equalized assessed value of the  
15 residence in the taxable year for which application is made  
16 minus the base amount (ii) multiplied by 0.2.

17 When the applicant is a surviving spouse of an applicant  
18 for a prior year for the same residence for which an exemption  
19 under this Section has been granted, the base year and base  
20 amount for that residence are the same as for the applicant for  
21 the prior year.

22 Each year at the time the assessment books are certified to  
23 the County Clerk, the Board of Review or Board of Appeals shall  
24 give to the County Clerk a list of the assessed values of  
25 improvements on each parcel qualifying for this exemption that  
26 were added after the base year for this parcel and that

1 increased the assessed value of the property.

2 In the case of land improved with an apartment building  
3 owned and operated as a cooperative or a building that is a  
4 life care facility that qualifies as a cooperative, the maximum  
5 reduction from the equalized assessed value of the property is  
6 limited to the sum of the reductions calculated for each unit  
7 occupied as a residence by a person or persons (i) 55 ~~65~~ years  
8 of age or older or is a disabled person, (ii) with a household  
9 income that does not exceed the maximum income limitation,  
10 (iii) who is liable, by contract with the owner or owners of  
11 record, for paying real property taxes on the property, and  
12 (iv) who is an owner of record of a legal or equitable interest  
13 in the cooperative apartment building, other than a leasehold  
14 interest. In the instance of a cooperative where a homestead  
15 exemption has been granted under this Section, the cooperative  
16 association or its management firm shall credit the savings  
17 resulting from that exemption only to the apportioned tax  
18 liability of the owner who qualified for the exemption. Any  
19 person who willfully refuses to credit that savings to an owner  
20 who qualifies for the exemption is guilty of a Class B  
21 misdemeanor.

22 When a homestead exemption has been granted under this  
23 Section and an applicant then becomes a resident of a facility  
24 licensed under the Nursing Home Care Act, the exemption shall  
25 be granted in subsequent years so long as the residence (i)  
26 continues to be occupied by the qualified applicant's spouse or



1 (ii) if remaining unoccupied, is still owned by the qualified  
2 applicant for the homestead exemption.

3 Beginning January 1, 1997 for senior citizens and January  
4 1, 2008 for disabled persons, when an individual dies who would  
5 have qualified for an exemption under this Section, and the  
6 surviving spouse does not independently qualify for this  
7 exemption because of age or nondisability, the exemption under  
8 this Section shall be granted to the surviving spouse for the  
9 taxable year preceding and the taxable year of the death,  
10 provided that, except for age or nondisability, the surviving  
11 spouse meets all other qualifications for the granting of this  
12 exemption for those years.

13 When married persons maintain separate residences, the  
14 exemption provided for in this Section may be claimed by only  
15 one of such persons and for only one residence.

16 For taxable year 1994 only, in counties having less than  
17 3,000,000 inhabitants, to receive the exemption, a person shall  
18 submit an application by February 15, 1995 to the Chief County  
19 Assessment Officer of the county in which the property is  
20 located. In counties having 3,000,000 or more inhabitants, for  
21 taxable year 1994 and all subsequent taxable years, to receive  
22 the exemption, a person may submit an application to the Chief  
23 County Assessment Officer of the county in which the property  
24 is located during such period as may be specified by the Chief  
25 County Assessment Officer. The Chief County Assessment Officer  
26 in counties of 3,000,000 or more inhabitants shall annually

1 give notice of the application period by mail or by  
2 publication. In counties having less than 3,000,000  
3 inhabitants, beginning with taxable year 1995 and thereafter,  
4 to receive the exemption, a person shall submit an application  
5 by July 1 of each taxable year to the Chief County Assessment  
6 Officer of the county in which the property is located. A  
7 county may, by ordinance, establish a date for submission of  
8 applications that is different than July 1. The applicant shall  
9 submit with the application an affidavit of the applicant's  
10 total household income, age, marital status (and if married the  
11 name and address of the applicant's spouse, if known),  
12 disability (if applying for the exemption as a disabled  
13 person), and principal dwelling place of members of the  
14 household on January 1 of the taxable year. The Department  
15 shall establish, by rule, a method for verifying the accuracy  
16 of affidavits filed by applicants under this Section, and the  
17 Chief County Assessment Officer may conduct audits of any  
18 taxpayer claiming an exemption under this Section to verify  
19 that the taxpayer is eligible to receive the exemption. Each  
20 application shall contain or be verified by a written  
21 declaration that it is made under the penalties of perjury. A  
22 taxpayer's signing a fraudulent application under this Act is  
23 perjury, as defined in Section 32-2 of the Criminal Code of  
24 1961. The applications shall be clearly marked as applications  
25 for the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Assessment Freeze  
26 Homestead Exemption and must contain a notice that any taxpayer

1 who receives the exemption is subject to an audit by the Chief  
2 County Assessment Officer.

3 Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, in  
4 counties having fewer than 3,000,000 inhabitants, if an  
5 applicant fails to file the application required by this  
6 Section in a timely manner and this failure to file is due to a  
7 mental or physical condition sufficiently severe so as to  
8 render the applicant incapable of filing the application in a  
9 timely manner, the Chief County Assessment Officer may extend  
10 the filing deadline for a period of 30 days after the applicant  
11 regains the capability to file the application, but in no case  
12 may the filing deadline be extended beyond 3 months of the  
13 original filing deadline. In order to receive the extension  
14 provided in this paragraph, the applicant shall provide the  
15 Chief County Assessment Officer with a signed statement from  
16 the applicant's physician stating the nature and extent of the  
17 condition, that, in the physician's opinion, the condition was  
18 so severe that it rendered the applicant incapable of filing  
19 the application in a timely manner, and the date on which the  
20 applicant regained the capability to file the application.

21 Beginning January 1, 1998, notwithstanding any other  
22 provision to the contrary, in counties having fewer than  
23 3,000,000 inhabitants, if an applicant fails to file the  
24 application required by this Section in a timely manner and  
25 this failure to file is due to a mental or physical condition  
26 sufficiently severe so as to render the applicant incapable of

1 filing the application in a timely manner, the Chief County  
2 Assessment Officer may extend the filing deadline for a period  
3 of 3 months. In order to receive the extension provided in this  
4 paragraph, the applicant shall provide the Chief County  
5 Assessment Officer with a signed statement from the applicant's  
6 physician stating the nature and extent of the condition, and  
7 that, in the physician's opinion, the condition was so severe  
8 that it rendered the applicant incapable of filing the  
9 application in a timely manner.

10 In counties having less than 3,000,000 inhabitants, if an  
11 applicant was denied an exemption in taxable year 1994 and the  
12 denial occurred due to an error on the part of an assessment  
13 official, or his or her agent or employee, then beginning in  
14 taxable year 1997 the applicant's base year, for purposes of  
15 determining the amount of the exemption, shall be 1993 rather  
16 than 1994. In addition, in taxable year 1997, the applicant's  
17 exemption shall also include an amount equal to (i) the amount  
18 of any exemption denied to the applicant in taxable year 1995  
19 as a result of using 1994, rather than 1993, as the base year,  
20 (ii) the amount of any exemption denied to the applicant in  
21 taxable year 1996 as a result of using 1994, rather than 1993,  
22 as the base year, and (iii) the amount of the exemption  
23 erroneously denied for taxable year 1994.

24 For purposes of this Section, a person who will be 55 ~~65~~  
25 years of age or is a disabled person during the current taxable  
26 year shall be eligible to apply for the homestead exemption

1 during that taxable year. Application shall be made during the  
2 application period in effect for the county of his or her  
3 residence.

4 The Chief County Assessment Officer may determine the  
5 eligibility of a life care facility that qualifies as a  
6 cooperative to receive the benefits provided by this Section by  
7 use of an affidavit, application, visual inspection,  
8 questionnaire, or other reasonable method in order to insure  
9 that the tax savings resulting from the exemption are credited  
10 by the management firm to the apportioned tax liability of each  
11 qualifying resident. The Chief County Assessment Officer may  
12 request reasonable proof that the management firm has so  
13 credited that exemption.

14 Except as provided in this Section, all information  
15 received by the chief county assessment officer or the  
16 Department from applications filed under this Section, or from  
17 any investigation conducted under the provisions of this  
18 Section, shall be confidential, except for official purposes or  
19 pursuant to official procedures for collection of any State or  
20 local tax or enforcement of any civil or criminal penalty or  
21 sanction imposed by this Act or by any statute or ordinance  
22 imposing a State or local tax. Any person who divulges any such  
23 information in any manner, except in accordance with a proper  
24 judicial order, is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

25 Nothing contained in this Section shall prevent the  
26 Director or chief county assessment officer from publishing or

1 making available reasonable statistics concerning the  
2 operation of the exemption contained in this Section in which  
3 the contents of claims are grouped into aggregates in such a  
4 way that information contained in any individual claim shall  
5 not be disclosed.

6 (d) Each Chief County Assessment Officer shall annually  
7 publish a notice of availability of the exemption provided  
8 under this Section. The notice shall be published at least 60  
9 days but no more than 75 days prior to the date on which the  
10 application must be submitted to the Chief County Assessment  
11 Officer of the county in which the property is located. The  
12 notice shall appear in a newspaper of general circulation in  
13 the county.

14 Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8 of the State Mandates Act,  
15 no reimbursement by the State is required for the  
16 implementation of any mandate created by this Section.

17 (Source: P.A. 94-794, eff. 5-22-06; 95-644, eff. 10-12-07.)

18 (35 ILCS 200/18-179 new)

19 Sec. 18-179. Abatement of school district taxes for  
20 eligible senior citizens.

21 (a) The county clerk shall abate the taxes levied by a  
22 school district on each parcel of qualified homestead property  
23 that is owned by an eligible senior citizen.

24 (b) The county clerk shall establish a procedure for  
25 eligible senior citizens to apply for this abatement.

1 (c) As used in this Section:

2 "Eligible senior citizen" means a taxpayer who is 65 years  
3 of age or older and who had an annual household income of  
4 \$35,000 or less for the previous taxable year.

5 "Qualified homestead property" means a parcel of real  
6 property that:

7 (1) is occupied by not more than 2 families; and

8 (2) is used as the principal residence by an eligible  
9 senior citizen.

10 "Annual household income" has the meaning set forth under  
11 Section 15-172.

12 Section 10. The School Code is amended by adding Section  
13 2-3.148 as follows:

14 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.148 new)

15 Sec. 2-3.148. Tax abatement reimbursements. The Board  
16 shall, subject to appropriation, reimburse each school  
17 district for any revenue lost due to the property tax abatement  
18 under Section 18-179 of the Property Tax Code.

19 Section 90. The State Mandates Act is amended by adding  
20 Section 8.32 as follows:

21 (30 ILCS 805/8.32 new)

22 Sec. 8.32. Exempt mandate. Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8

1 of this Act, no reimbursement by the State is required for the  
2 implementation of any mandate created by this amendatory Act of  
3 the 95th General Assembly.

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
5 becoming law.



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Statutes amended in order of appearance

3

35 ILCS 200/14-20

4

35 ILCS 200/15-7 new

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35 ILCS 200/15-170

6

35 ILCS 200/15-172

7

35 ILCS 200/18-179 new

8

105 ILCS 5/2-3.148 new

9

30 ILCS 805/8.32 new